



news

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Merry
Christmas

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IN THIS ISSUE!

Capitol news

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DAVE DEXTER'S

SURFACE NOISE

CAPITOL NEWS

CAPITOL NEWS

SPOT NEWS

Old-timer Ben Pollack is back leading a band in Hollywood. And it's a 6-piece Dixie combo which the vet drummer is pacing at the Beverly Cavern with Matty Matlock on clarinet, Walt Yoder on bass and others.

The Dixie fever is fast-spreading. Ted Veseley's spirited two-beat gang moved into Sardi's Monkey Room on Hollywood Boulevard in the wake of Pete Daily. Pete took his gang of Chicagoans (see back cover photo) to San Francisco.

Which leaves the entire west coast with but one regularly-employed bop brigade.



HOME AGAIN in California after a concert tour and a run at the New York Paramount, Paul Weston and Jo Stafford find there's no rest for the weary. Here they are recording for Capitol. And Jo has a raft of radio guest shots booked for the new year.



Thoughts While Unpacking a Suitcase

The census figures make no bones about it—New York, Chicago, Philly, Los Angeles and other cities are larger than New Orleans.

But if you love music, and jazz in particular, the colorful little Louisiana metropolis has 'em all skunked.

Jazz got its start down there by the muddy Mississippi and even today, as a new half-century begins, New Orleans offers more in the way of creative, exciting, dynamic hot music than any other city in the world.

The Roosevelt Hotel advertises big name orchestras but four blocks away, in the ancient, decadent Vieux Carre section of the city, you'll find more jazz bands within a six-block area than ever existed on 52nd Street, or in the Loop, or on Sunset Boulevard. Leon Prima, Phil Zito, old Papa Celestin with Alphonse Picou on clarinet, Joe Loyacano, Frank Federico, Armand Hug, Sharkey and his Kings of Dixie and a dozen others work every night, all of them blowing the happy, surging drop-beat stuff called Dixieland.

Sharkey's little band is especially popular, having its own TV show, a Sunday concert, radio shots and two—that's two—nitery jobs. Twice every night Sharkey grabs his trumpet and his sidemen and they rush in a cab from the Famous Door to the ornate Roosevelt Blue Room—a frantic double. Then, too, they play "welcome" concerts down at the docks for the steamer passengers returning from cruises to Havana.

The old, legendary streets of New Orleans are still there and plainly marked, streets made famous the world over by the Olivers, Mortons, Armstrongs, Bechets and scores of other jazzmen. Basin Street, Iberville, Canal, Rampart, Bourbon, Decatur, Dauphine and—we'll spell it, not try to say it—Tchoupitoulas Street. And from Canal you'll still see the riverboats plodding upstream, much as they did when jazz was young.

Walk down a street, any street, and you hear music. A new jazz rag, "Bourbon Street Bounce," is on every jukebox and disc jockey program. Music seems to mean more in the Crescent City. The poorest people buy records regularly for their old, hand-cranked phonos. And the small, forsaken bars off on the dimly-lighted sidestreets invariably feature at least a pianist.

Mardi Gras doesn't begin until the Krewe of Carrollton next Feb. 12. And Christmas is still a few weeks away. But the visitor to New Orleans senses, feels, smells and hears a festive spirit within a 10-minute drive from the sprawling Moisant Airport. Hollywood has its points, but returning to the Vine & Sunset office routines is like trying to tackle Emil Sitko.

Love that Creole Gumbo and Bourbon Street. Merry Christmas!

CAPITOL NEWS

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Herman Heading For Havana

Will Use Only 6 Men in New Combo

When Woody Herman and Nat Cole conclude their current concert tour in Oklahoma City Dec. 4, Woody will dismiss his musicians, hire six of them back and immediately fly to Havana for three weeks at the Tropicana with his abbreviated combo of Woodchoppers.

Bill Harris Sticks

It won't be the end of the road for Herman's big band, for Woody intends, in 1950, to re-organize a full-size orchestra with eight brass for occasional concert tours.

"But we'll end 1949 and begin 1950," said Herman, "with a new idea in music. Shelly Manne will be on drums, Bill Harris on trombone and Neal Hefti on trumpet. The new group also will feature Ralph Burns at the piano, Milt Jackson on the vibes and Mert Oliver behind the bass.

Will Record With New Group

"Burns and Hefti have been writing new arrangements and we have a lot of optimism about a new Woodchoppers group. It will be an adaptable unit, just right for nitery and ideal for hotels. General Artists (booking agency) is lining up January engagements and the response is marvelous."

The Tropicana date will be the first Herman has ever played in Cuba. None of his musicians has ever been there, either.

The new Herman herd—smallest unit Woody has ever fronted—also will record for Capitol.

No Girl Singer . . . Yet

Current conditions make it virtually impossible for a big band, with a payroll as hefty as Herman's.

(Over to Page 14)



Ventura Combo Rushing West

Charlie Ventura, his tenor pipe and small combo are due in Los Angeles this month for a run at the Red Feather, nite nitery on the city's far south side.

Opening night is booked for Dec. 7, with George Shearing, blind British pianist, set to follow Ventura on Jan. 7. Shearing has never played in Southern California. Ventura, slated to play the Empire Room last winter, didn't play any nitery when the Empire folded suddenly.

Ziggy Swings Wand

Frank Sinatra hired Ziggy Elman to conduct on his nightly NBC airshow which is airing from New York this month. Elman takes over for Jeff Alexander.



WITH VIC DAMONE set for an MGM film, those persistent rumors that Billy Eckstine and Lena Horne also will be teamed in a feature flick are being heard again. Eckstine's handlers have "officially" announced he was soon to face the Lion's cameras at least 10 times in the last four years but the studio just as determinedly denies each report.

The baritone, riding high these days, has tested but the films apparently never got out of the producer's projection rooms. MGM also squelched reports that Lena would star in a pic based on the career of Josephine Baker.

Al Jarvis, reputedly the first disc jockey ever to face the television cameras, now may be seen all afternoon, every afternoon, frantically whirling discs and conducting business over KLAC-TV in Los Angeles. He's in front of the cameras nearly five hours and

doing four other hours of straight radio in addition. Services are expected to be conducted by Christmas eve.

Kid Ory's Vine street niter folded fast, but it was no fault of Ory's. AFM Local 47 pulled his band off the stand when the union learned the spot was being managed by Billy Berg, alleged to be on the unfair list. Ory, who left a steady job at the Beverly Cavern to move to Vine street, was trying to get the union and Berg straightened out so "his" club could reopen. The Cavern, meanwhile, hired Andy Blakeny's band. Leader is a former Ory trumpeter with a combo patterned after Ory's style.

John Anderson, trumpeter leading the band at the L. A. Oasis, a hangout for USC students, features Gerald Wiggins, piano; Britt Woodman, trombone; Charlie Drayton, bass; Qudellis Martin, tenor; Oscar Bradley, drums.



GINNY O'CONNOR is the lassie with the Mello-Larks, west coast vocal group which has just made its fifth musical short at U-I Studios and which is clicking in TV. She's assisted by Jack Bierman, Bob Smith and Tommy Hamm. The group also toured with Betty Hutton, including a run at the London Palladium.



SIGNS . . . Dizzy Gillespie and his revamped ork soon will be heard on Capitol platters. The bop trumpeter has shifted the style of his band and it now is said to be "melodic and danceable." Jim Conkling pacted him to the new contract.

Steve Gibson and the Red Caps open at Larry Potter's niter in North Hollywood Dec. 1 for eight weeks.

Matty Matlock out, Rosy McHargue in, to play clarinet with Red Nichols' Pennies at the Hollywood Hangover Club.

The Trenier Twins, back home on the coast after working the east, including the N. Y. Paramount, will open on Dec. 20 at the Melodee Club in Los Angeles with Gene Gilbeaux's band. The package will draw a weekly fee of \$1,250.

The Dave Roses parented a daughter last month.

New Orleans' renowned Armand Hug, long featured as piano soloist at the Hotel Pontchartrain, signed Capitol contract and will shortly be heard on the royal purple label. Because of personal reasons, Hug has never accepted big-loot band offers, preferring to remain in the Crescent City. His waxings include his own original "Huggin' the Keys" piano solo with rhythm section of Joe Loyacano, bass; Frankie Federico, guitar, and Fred King, traps, backstopping.

Gillespie, Katz Soon To Wax On Cap Label

Dizzy Gillespie affixed his signature to a Capitol contract in late November and, in the future, will record with his new and revamped orchestra exclusively for the royal purple Cap label.

Still Leads 'Big' Combo

One of the few musicians to gain fame since Pearl Harbor, Dizzy's dizzy trumpeting and unorthodox band style were credited with introducing bebop. His current combo, however, although as large as his previous orks, is offering a radical change. The emphasis is on melodic, danceable ensembles, a far cry from the erotic music Diz purveyed in the years following the end of World War II.

The deal for Gillespie to swing over to Capitol was set by Diz and his manager, Willard Alexander, with Jim Conkling, who bosses the waxwork's artists and repertoire division.

Katz Set, Too

Many of the musicians who have been with Diz are being retained, Conkling said, but all of his new platters will reflect the changeover in style. Conkling also added that the biscuits Dizzy waxes under his new contract will be released in foreign countries as well as the States.

The first Capitol release by the overhauled Bop King's unit is set for January.

Also signed by Capitol was Mickey Katz, leader of a west coast comedy combo which now is on tour. Katz, a clarinetist, once was featured with Spike Jones. His zany little crew will record its first masters for Capitol in late December. The band returns from its current tour on Dec. 24 and its first tailoring will be marketed in January.

Katz is noted for his Yiddish songs and dialects and has a large following.



NEWEST TEAM to parlay their talents on records finds Maggie Whiting, just back from Tennessee, making duets with Bing Crosby's uncle, Robert Hope, and the fun they're having revolves around the shamrocked sweatshirt worn by Billy May, who conducted the ork on the Capitol session. Whiting fans will recall other Maggie duets with guys like John Mercer, James Wakely and Jack Smith. But none like this 'un with Ski-Nose!

Ormond Downes Dies; Famed As A Drummer

Former Ted Weems drummer Ormond Downes died suddenly in Los Angeles Nov. 5 after a brief illness. At one time, during the 1930s, Downes was regarded as one of the most spectacular—and popular—drummers in the world. He was featured with the Weems band for two decades.

Dinah Eyes N. Y.

Dinah Shore will hike to New York in January to perform at the Waldorf-Astoria. It will be her first bistro job in several years.

Nappy Out With New Dixie Band

Leaping upon the Dixieland bandwagon after three years spent operating his own Los Angeles night club, Hilton (Nappy) Lamare organized, rehearsed and took on the road a new 8-piece combo in November. Lamare fronts the group with a banjo, and does the vocals.

After three weeks of one-nighters along the west coast, Lamare is skedded, soon, to unveil his new crew in a Los Angeles niter—not his own Club 47. Featured with him—Nappy was a star of the old Bob Crosby Dixie-crew—are Zutty Singleton on drums, Brad Gowans on trombone and Stewie Pletcher on trumpet.

A steady job at 20th-Fox studios restrained Eddie Miller, tenor saxist, from joining Lamare. Nappy, incidentally, is being billed as "Mister Dixieland."

The group also will be making records soon, Lamare said.

Barbour Bags Acting Role In 'Spot' Movie

When Peggy Lee completed work in Bing Crosby's newest Paramount film, "Mr. Music," her husband checked in at the RKO-Radio studios in Hollywood, slapped on the pancake and began an acting career for himself.

Dave Barbour will have lines to say in the production of "Blind Spot," now shooting. And Dave also will be seen plunking his guitar along with five other top-flight musicians.

Vito Musso, longtime tenor sax star of the Benny Goodman and Stan Kenton bands, will join with Barbour for scenes in the film. Also drawing RKO paychecks will be Ernie Royal, high-note trumpeter who until recently was featured with Woody Herman, Alvin Stoller, drummer; Walt Yoder, bass player who also toiled with the Herman herd, and Hal Schaeffer, pianist who has been featured on scads of Peggy Lee-Dave Barbour records.

The film is a Skirball-Manning production starring Claudette Colbert and Robert Ryan. Production started Oct. 17. Red Norvo, also sought for the flicker, was unable to make it because of nitery work in the east. Mel Ferrer is the director.

Chicago Theater Next For Torme

Mel Torme's ball in Hollywood is ended. The Fog is going back to work.

He's finished scenes for MGM's "Duchess of Idaho" filmusical and the first date on his coming road schedule puts him in the toddlin' town, Chicago, over Christmas. Torme opens at the Chicago Theater there on Dec. 23 for two weeks, and will follow it with other eastern stints.



AVID AUDIENCE digs Mel Torme's foggy crooning at the recent Los Angeles Press Photographers' Ball—Mel's wife, Candy, is seated in the company of Marilyn Maxwell and Ava Gardner. The Tormes will become parents in 1950. Gene Howard made the photo.

New Kenton Ork Offers 'Much That is New'

Still a perfectionist, although it has been nearly a year now since he disbanded his "progressive" orchestra, Stan Kenton in late November postponed a series of record dates with his new 40-piece outfit and will cut the wax after Christmas, when the group has had sufficient time to rehearse.

There are no changes in Stan's plans for a concert tour in early 1950. Capitol will release a new album by the 1950 SK ork just about the time Stan takes off on a trek which will include 75 concerts all over the U. S.

Kenton, enthused with dozens of new compositions he and his arranging staff have completed in recent weeks, says he is convinced his new orchestra—with a

big, clean string section—is offering "much that is new in modern music."

"But there's nothing mystical about the new unit," he asserts. "It should appeal to those who liked my old bands, and it quite likely will appeal to those who never got with what I was trying to prove."

June Christy is back with Kenton as vocalist. She also will do the concert tour which starts in February in San Diego.

While the exact personnel hasn't yet been determined, Kenton declared that Kai Winding would definitely be featured on trombone on the tour. Winding was a star of a previous Kenton band. Carlos Vidal, bongo and conga drum whiz, also is set. Pete Rugolo is already back in the fold, as chief arranger.

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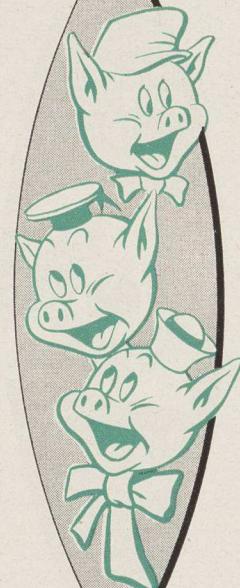


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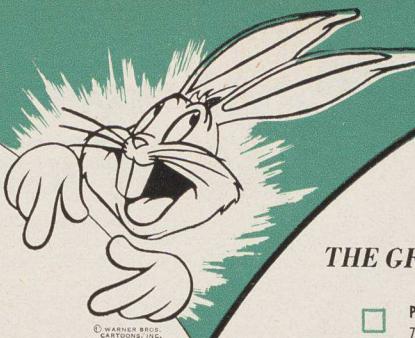
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Whiting, Wakely Slip Around in Fine Style Deep Down in Dixie

By LEE GILLETTE

The key to Nashville, home of the WSM Grand Ole Opry, was turned over to Margaret Whiting and Jimmy Wakely last month when they flew from California to "slip around" on Prince Albert's nationally famous coast-to-coaster. Whiting's reception, indeed, rivaled anything that Hollywood has ever done for a star, and it was the first time any popular record artist received such an ovation by the followers of folk music.

Oh, That Ham!!

Although sharing the spotlight with "Maggie" (that's what she's called by all the Opry crew), Wakely even topped his previous successes of 1949 in the Tennessee capital. This was his third appearance on the Opry this year. It was a fat compliment to Capitol's new singing team to be accepted by all the folks down Nashville way, because they were bucking the top talent in the nation—such stars as Ernest Tubb, Red Foley, Minnie Pearl, Hank Williams and others too numerous to mention. Folks in Hollywood have at their fingertips all the necessary ingredients to put on a gala celebration in tribute to visiting firemen, but, believe me, we don't have the country ham, grits, and, most of all, the know-how of real Southern hospitality. It's no wonder that the music of the Tennessee hills has invaded the domain of popular music . . . and with a bang.

Immediately following the Wakely-Whiting broadcast, the WSM Opry gang, including Red Foley, Rod Brasfield, Minnie Pearl, Jimmy Dickens and Announcer Grant Turner, flew overseas to entertain the occupation troops in Germany. It was a fast-nessee. . . . Jimmy Wakely a

planned and executed trip. Two of the Opry broadcasts were scheduled to be taped in Europe and flown back to WSM for the regular Saturday night broadcasts. It all added up to good showmanship, and folks all over the country who are always trying to capture a radio audience would do well to take a few lessons from the boys behind the scenes of the WSM Grand Ole Opry. A bouquet of roses to Jack Stapp and Harry Stone!!

Johnson Singers Win Prize

Despite competition from some of the top gospel singing groups in the country, Capitol Records' Johnson Gospel Singers, led by Jack Johnson, were victors in the contest held at the North Carolina State Fair Folk Festival in Raleigh. It was their fourth victory in state-wide singing contests this year and their sixth consecutive state-wide win in two years. Two of the songs which helped lead them to victory are their latest Capitol etchings of "Bound For That City" and "Life Is Just A Proving Ground." You may recall that they also were winners over many other fine gospel singers in Charlotte last March when Capitol sponsored a folk music talent contest at Charlotte Auditorium.

Who's Doing What?

Tommy Duncan and His Western All-Stars packing them in all over the west coast on personals. His current Capitol etching of "You Put Me On My Feet" headed for a hit, hot on the heels of "Gamblin' Polka Dot Blues." The ex-Bob Wills warbler is singing better than he ever did. . . . Atlanta's Statesmen Quartet breaking it up wherever they appear, whether it be in Florida or Tennessee. . . . Jimmy Wakely a daily on WSM.



MEET ANN . . . Ann Jones. She's the gal with a laugh in her voice whose current record of "Post Office" looms as a Western Hit Parade topper. Ann has been out on the road doing personals and gabbing with disc jocks; that box she's plucking is no pose, either.

smash at the Thunderbird Hotel in Las Vegas. As Tex Ritter would say, "Wakely is 'eatin' high on the hog.' . . . Add to expectant fathers: Wesley Tuttle, who has returned to San Fernando Valley for a three-month sojourn. His current "Yodelin' Boogie" looks like a hot contender. . . . Hank Thompson back in Dallas and KRLD after a fast tour to Washington, D. C. and Atlanta. . . . Wade "One Man Band" Ray, Rex Allen's sidekick, still carrying on with his band at Cowtown and on KXLA. . . . Bob Flannery due on the coast to etch more records. . . . Ken Marvin doing a 45-minute jockey show



BETTY HUTTON, her sis Marion Hutton and their mom, Mrs. Gilbert Adams, enjoyed another family reunion last month just as Betty's latest picture, Paramount's "Red, Hot and Blue" was released. Betty has since hopped over to MGM where she is the star of "Annie Get Your Gun."

Laine, Kay Starr, Mills Brothers To Be Seen in Movie Musical

Frankie Laine has signed to make another movie.

The shouter, riding high this winter with a series of hits, will act as well as sing in a musical tentatively titled "Platter Parade."

Columbia, which produced "Make Believe Ballroom" with Laine last year, will produce it. Also to be seen in the flick will be Kay Starr, who had a solid spot, too, in the "Ballroom" celluloid, and the singing Mills Brothers also are being sought to bolster box-office appeal.

Buster Wilson Dies

Death came to 51-year-old Arthur (Buster) Wilson, Jr., renowned pianist and jazz pioneer, in Los Angeles General Hospital Oct. 23 after an illness of two years. Wilson, a native of Atlanta, reached his peak with Kid Ory's Creole band and had made many records during his 30-year career in music.

5 Musicals In Works at Metro

MGM is setting some sort of studio record this month as five big-budget musicals start shooting.

"Summer Stock" stars Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, Gloria De Haven and Phil Silvers. Fred Astaire and Vera-Ellen are teaming in "Three Little Words." Mario Lanza and Kathryn Grayson already are at work in "Kiss of Fire." Also in the works are "Annie Get Your Gun" with Betty Hutton and "Duchess of Idaho," with Van Johnson, Mel Torme, Connie Haines and others.

STRICTLY VOCAL

VIC DAMONE, a virtual unknown a few weeks ago on the west coast, right now is as popular in Southern California as he is throughout the east. His run at the Mocambo was described as "sensational" by everyone from MGM brass to the parking lot boys, and within a month or two Vic will be returning to Filmtown for his first crack at celluloid.

Joe Pasternak already is preparing a Metro musical in which the young singer will be starred, probably with Jane Powell.

Bing Crosby winds up work in Paramount's "Mr. Music" this month. Peggy Lee and Dorothy Kirsten have solid roles, but the Merry Macs, who were signed to be seen in it, bowed out. The studio's negotiations with Harry James also fell through.

Vaughn Monroe and band trained out to open at the Hotel Statler, New York, following Vaughn's work in "Singing Guns" film.

Doris Day okay after minor operation.

Janet Blair, one-time Hal Kemp canary and pic star, signed to star in "South Pacific" starting after January. She'll play the original Mary Martin role in Chicago, Los Angeles and key cities.

Kay Starr, back on the coast after several months in New York, plattered four new sides for Capitol (one with Red Nichols' Pennies) and hopped north to play nightclubs in Vancouver and Seattle.

Clark Dennis, tenor, is singing at the Model in Portland.



VINE at SUNSET

THE CRACK of the lash isn't stilled . . . yet. After seven jillion airings of the freak "Mule Train" hit, it will be featured again when Gene Autry's newest movie is released in January. The cowboy paid \$20,000 for rights to feature the song in the pic and the fee gives Autry the right to title the film "Mule Train."

Vaughn Monroe already has sung the tune in his "Singing Guns" western flicker, and will beat Autry to the nation's screens.

Armand Schaefer is producing the Autry flick; Abe Lyman bossed Monroe's entry.

THIS GUY really bossed a "Mule Train" as a kid. Tennessee Ernie, whose record of the tune is one of the best, grew up in Bristol, Tenn., and cracked the whip over the critters for a good many years before starting a singing career. Ernie, a flight instructor during the war, now is in Hollywood, beard, whip and all. And his record is a best-seller.

Cleo Brown Back On Wax, In Clubs

Big things are happening again for Cleo Brown, the little gal from Mississippi who was forced out of the music whirl for several years by illness.

She's just opened at the Doll House in Palm Springs, Cal., where she beats the Baldwin and sings nightly. And she's just had her first Capitol discs released nationally. Some 10 years ago Cleo was one of the most popular fem artists on wax. Then illness knocked her out until after the war years.

Cleo's rolling again now and her platters are spinning, too.

Floyd Levin's "Jazz on Parade" platter show now airs over KWIK, Burbank, at 8:30 p.m. Mondays and simultaneously on KFMV, via FM.

Laughin' Jack Smith made a teevee short in behalf of the March of Dimes which will be telecast nationally this winter. Smith caroled a medley of his recorded hits.

After 58 one-night stands, Eddy Howard and band sit down at the Deshler-Wallick in Columbus Dec. 5 for 12 days.



Doris Day planning an in person date at the London Palladium next summer; she's never hopped the Atlantic before.

Jane Dorsey, wife of Tommy, gave birth to a daughter, Susan Catherine, Nov. 9 in New York. Tommy was playing the Shamrock in Houston. The tramping leader also has his Ocean Park, Cal., ballroom, Casino Gardens, up for sale.

Jimmy Dorsey, no slouch at making news either, bopped a paying patron on the head with his clarinet in Richmond, Va., just a few hours after his niece was born. The victim, a milkman, said he "wasn't quite sure how the trouble started." But by the time he complained to the Richmond police, JD and band were long gone . . . out on the road playing one-nighters.

MEET THE JOCKEY!

DICK TUCKER comes on with the gab, and the shellacs, over Boston's WBZ. He opens his mike at 1:30 p. m. and after the session, returns nightly at 11:30 to round out a man-killing program which might prostrate a married man.

Dick is 28, he has been in radio since 1941, admits to being a native of Massachusetts and, frequently, he sings along with the records and tries voice impersonations a la Sammy Davis, Jr. He's seen on WBZ-TV, too, in case you fems care to look over a potential husband.



WHO'S WHERE

HARRY JAMES: Palladium.
RED NICHOLS: Hangover Club.
TED VESELY: Monkey Room.
BEN POLLACK: Beverly Cavern.
HENRY KING: Biltmore.
SKITCH HENDERSON, Cocoanut Grove, opening on Dec. 13.
KITTY WHITE: The Haig.
TEX WILLIAMS: Riverside Rancho.
EDDIE OLIVER: Beverly Hills Hotel.
CHARLIE VENTURA: Red Feather.
LES PARKER: Larry Potter's Club.
LEIGHTON NOBLE: Aragon.
SIGMUND SCHATZ: Bublikchi.
ARTHUR VAN: Colonial Ballroom.

MEET THE JOCKEY!

DICK MARTIN presides over his own midnight "Moonglow With Martin" every night over powerful WWL in New Orleans. Born in Illinois, Dick entered radio after service in the Pacific on a Mobile station, and he now pulls mail from every state except Utah and Nevada—even as far away as New Zealand they write Dick regularly. Last August, he became a father. Martin speaks softly, without bombastic high pressure, and spends much of his time off-mike planning his show. He has 40 pipes, prefers tweeds, is a crack golfer and is doing a great job for WWL in the famed old Crescent City. He even answers his fan mail!

Woody Herman

(From Page 3)

man's, to stay in the black. Charlie Barnet just recently disbanded for the same reason.

Herman's hokey duet with King Cole on "Mule Train," meanwhile, has stepped out and is a best-selling record.

Woody won't use a girl singer, for the time being. And his clarinet-alto double will give the new combo additional instrumental strength.



FIRST PHOTO of Cookie Cole, recently adopted by Marie and Nat (King) Cole, catches Nat dealing out a birthday offering. She'll get more than a new dollie later this month, though, when the Coles celebrate Christmas together with Cookie. Nat's latest disc, teaming with Woody Herman, is a jive version of "Mule Train." He and Woody sing it for laughs.

South's Most Popular Jazz Ork Slices Discs in New Orleans

Sharkey and his Kings of Dixie, reputed to be the most popular little band south of the Mason-Dixon line, have signed a Capitol Records contract and will record only for the Cap label in the future.

Sharkey, privately known as Sharley Bonano, is a jazz veteran. For 30 years he has built a solid reputation in and near New Orleans. He plays trumpet and sings. Santo Pecora, trombonist, is regarded as the finest tram soloist in the South and is heavily featured with Sharkey's combo. Lester Bouchon, clarinet; Monk Hazel, drummer who doubles mellophone; Chink Martin, bass, and Jeff Riddick, piano, round out the personnel of the group, which plays at both the Roosevelt Hotel Blue Room and the Famous Door nitery in New Orleans every night.

Dave Dexter of Capitol signed the group and supervised Sharkey's first session, which produced "Bourbon Street Bounce" and Sharkey's own tune, "Pizza Pie Boogie," for release about Dec. 1. Much of the unit's popularity in the South is attributed to the steady plugging of Roger Wolfe, WDSU jockey, who is rated as the most potent Dixieland booster west of New York. He assisted on the Capitol session right on Rampart street in the Crescent City.

NEW BOOKS

"God Wears a Bow Tie." A novel by Lyle Stuart. Greenberg: Publisher. \$2.50.

The 252 pages comprising this story of a leg man on a Broadway trade rag are creating big talk in the music business. Stuart—a pen name for a former "Billboard" man—has attempted a "Hucksters" tale and boldly patterned his characters after prominent men in Tin Pan Alley.

But Larry Stark, the main character of the novel, is a pathetic hero. And as he pounds his beat for "Showcase" along the canyons of Radio City the men and women he deals with become increasingly ersatz. By the close of the story the reader hopes that all the characters drop dead.

A thin plot, much phony Broadway dialogue and repeated sequences of alcohol and sex all wear thin. It really isn't much of a novel.

—Dexter

mathematical mind was unique in the arts.

As an antidote to the perverted behavior of musicians in "God Wears a Bow Tie," Mrs. Schillinger's light, informal biography is more than an answer to Lyle Stuart's pornography; hers was an ideal marriage. The Schillinger studio—12 rooms in all—on New York's Park Avenue was a fabulous gathering place for the greats of the classical and popular music fields.

There is humor in Mrs. Schillinger's writing and the volume is superbly illustrated.

—Dexter

Henderson At Grove Dec. 13

The orchestra of Skitch Henderson will open on Dec. 13 at the Cocoanut Grove in the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel.

The Grove's management finally straightened out its booking schedule. Henderson, prominent as a pianist and until he went out on the road with his own band, featured on Bing Crosby's weekly airshow, is set for four weeks at the swank spot.

The Sportsmen also will be featured in the Grove's floorshow starting Dec. 13.



MEET THE Anthonys. Dee Keating sang in Ray Anthony's band until last spring when the boss man tossed his trumpet aside and married her. Ray's fast-moving band, following sock runs in New Orleans and Memphis, soon will open at Frank Daily's Meadowbrook in Cedar Grove, N. J. And Mrs. Anthony will be there, too.

Baskette Passes

Billy Baskette, 64, composer of "Waitin' For The Evening Mail" and other hit tunes, died in L. A. Nov. 9. He also was noted as a pianist.

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'South' Sends 'Em North



OFF IN a cloud of two-beat last month went Pete Daily and his Dixieland band on the heels of a best-selling platter, "South." After more than a year on Hollywood Boulevard in Filmtown, Pete and his men sped north to play nightly at the Hangover Club in San Francisco a booking which may keep the combo on the road several months, with Chicago and Detroit to follow. Shown on their last Cap record session, Pete's gang lines up with Phil Stephen bass; Don Owens, piano; Stan Story, clarinet; Daily, cornet; Nappy Lamare, banjo, who has just formed a Dixiecrew of his own; George Defebaugh, drums, and Warren Smith, trombone. Pete's newest disc couples "Down Home Rag" with "O, Katharina."